

Message Text

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DIA WASHDC

HQ, USSOUTHCOM, SCJ2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2623

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, UY

SUBJ: DR. APARICIO MENDEZ TO BE DESIGNATED PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: DR. APARICIO MENDEZ MANFREDINI, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND OF THE RECENTLY FORMED COUNCIL OF THE NATION IS EXPECTED TO BE NAMED AS URUGUAY'S NEXT PRESIDENT ON JULY 14. ALTHOUGH MENDEZ IS REPORTED TO HAVE THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE CIVILIAN/MILITARY COUNCIL OF THE NATION, THREE COUNCILORS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE RESIGNED IN PROTEST AGAINST HIS NAMING. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. APARICIO MENDEZ MANFREDINI, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE RECENTLY FORMED COUNCIL OF THE NATION, IS EXPECTED TO BE DESIGNATED THIS AFTERNOON AS URUGUAY'S NEXT PRESIDENT. MENDEZ' TERM HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED.

3. WHILE SOME PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE INAUGURAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 25, URUGUAY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, CONFIDENTIAL

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A FORMAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND AT LEAST SOME

COUNCILORS BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO AVOID UNDUE DELAY IN ESTABLISHING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

4. ONE COUNCILOR OF STATE, AN MD, ON JULY 13 DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE OF MENDEZ TO AN EMBOFF IN MEDICAL TERMS, CALLING IT "AN EASY BIRTH." HE ADDED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES CONSIDERED MENDEZ A FIRST RATE MAN WITH AN UNBLEMISHED RECORD. NEVERTHELESS, ANOTHER COUNCILOR WHO HAD BEEN VERY CLOSE TO FORMER PRESIDENT BORDABERRY TOLD THE PAO LATER IN THE DAY THAT SHE AND TWO OTHER COUNCILORS HAD PRESENTED VERBAL RESIGNATIONS IN PROTEST AGAINST MENDEZ. SHE SAID THEY HAD LITTLE RESPECT FOR MENDEZ AND IMPLIED THAT THEY BELIEVED HE WOULD BE LITTLE MORE THAN A PUPPET FOR THE MILITARY. DESPITE THIS SMALL GROUP, INDICATIONS ARE THAT MENDEZ ENJOYS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN THE COUNCIL WHICH WILL FORMALLY NAME THE NEW PRESIDENT LATE ON JULY 14.

5. BIO DATA FOLLOWS: MENDEZ, BORN IN RIVERA AUGUST 24, 1904, GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC IN 1930. HIS FORMER OCCUPATIONS WERE THAT OF A LAWYER AND PROFESSOR, AND HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF URUGUAY'S LEADING EXPERTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. IN TERMS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BLANCO PARTY'S DIRECTORATE, FROM THE CONSERVATIVE ECHEGOYEN FACTION, BUT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A PRACTICING POLITICIAN IN THE SENSE OF SEEKING ELECTIVE POLITICAL OFFICE. MENDEZ HELD A PROFESSORSHIP IN THE LAW FACULTY FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, BEGINNING IN 1930. HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A VERY GOOD LAWYER, AND HAS SERVED AS A CONSULTANT TO THE GOU ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. MENDEZ HAS ALSO TAUGHT SOUTH AMERICAN AND URUGUAYAN HISTORY IN VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND AUTHORED TEXTBOOKS ON LAW AND ADMINISTRATION. HE HAS BEEN CHIEF LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MONTEVIDEO (FROM 1934-1938) AND A MEMBER OF THE ELECTORAL COURT (FROM 1943-1946). FROM 1961 TO 1964, HE WAS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LATER WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF JURISTS OF THE OAS. CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM 1965 TO 1966, HE WAS HEAD OF THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION TO THE MIXED TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF SALTO GRANDE. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE ON DECEMBER 19, 1973, AND WAS DESIGNATED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN 1974. HE SUCCEEDED DEMICHELI AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE WHEN DEMICHELI SUCCEEDED BORDABERRY AS PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY ON JUNE 12, 1976. HE ALSO BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE RECENTLY FORMED COUNCIL OF THE NATION. MENDEZ IS MARRIED

TO THE FORMER BLANCA ALONSO GONZALEZ. HE REPRESENTED
URUGUAY IN THE CONGRESS OF MINISTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HELD IN WASHINGTON IN 1964. HE IS CONSIDERED FRIENDLY
TOWARDS THE U.S.
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